



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**  
Legislative Analyst  
Community Outreach  
New England Region

February 25, 2022

The Honorable Steve Cassano, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Cristin McCarthy Vahey, House Chair  
Joint Planning and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2100  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**RE: American Kennel Club Supports HB 5170, Concerning Tethering and Sheltering of Dogs**

Dear Co-Chairs and Joint Planning and Development Committee Members:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to express our support for HB 5170, which is currently before your committee. As you may know, the AKC was established in 1884 as a not-for-profit animal welfare organization to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. With more than 5,000 clubs across the country and 57 in Connecticut, we are a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, training, and breeding, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. This year, our AKC Canine Health Foundation is celebrating the funding of more than \$60 million for canine health research, benefiting all dogs.

HB 5170 would amend the animal cruelty law by specifying additional circumstances when tethering a dog is unacceptable. In addition, the bill prohibits the failure to provide a dog “adequate shelter” for a duration of more than fifteen minutes, unless the person is in the presence of the dog and outdoors during a weather advisory or warning or exposed to the same outdoor environmental conditions

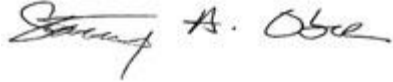
AKC supports reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities. Dogs should never be tethered in a manner that could cause harm to them. Tethering is a common and responsible way to restrain dogs that do not respond well to other restraints (such as escape artists) or participate in activities that require acclimatization such as hunting, sledding, or other obedience and performance events. Tethering may also be a responsible and appropriate option for handling dogs, working as service dogs (like seeing eye dogs), dogs in training, and dogs that are being groomed or examined on a table.

AKC supports HB 5170 because it recognizes that dogs come in all shapes, varieties, and sizes, with characteristics that make them unique. No dog should be left in unsafe conditions; however, it should be noted that dogs are the most diverse species of animals. What is ideal for a Chihuahua is very different than the needs and tolerances of a Saint Bernard. There are a

number of factors that impact a dog's ability to handle weather, including breed, age, and its general health. HB 5170 allows for performance variations based on those factors.

Thank you for raising this thoughtful legislation for consideration. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or [Stacey.Ober@akc.org](mailto:Stacey.Ober@akc.org) if you would like me to provide more details.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey A. Ober". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stacey" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Ober".

Stacey Ober, JD

Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England  
AKC Government Relations

CC: Laurie Maulucci, Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners  
(CFDRDO)